

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please rewrite the claims as indicated below.

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for patterning cells, comprising:  
shielding a first portion of a surface of an article with a masking system comprising a cohesive mask in conformal contact with the surface of the article;  
applying ~~an agent~~ cells through a channel within the masking system to a second portion of the surface of the article while preventing application of the ~~agent~~ cells to the first portion of the surface of the article; and  
~~applying cells onto the agent~~ removing the masking system from the first portion of the surface of the article.
  2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the masking system comprises a flexible mask including a first surface and an opposing second surface, and the channel is one of a plurality of channels passing through the mask and connecting the first surface with the second surface.
  3. (Cancelled)
  4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 46, wherein the agent is a cell-adhesion promoter.
  5. (Cancelled)
  6. (Cancelled)
  7. (Cancelled)
  8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~7~~ 4, wherein the ~~first~~ agent is a protein.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the protein is fibronectin.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first portion of the surface of the article is contiguous with the second portion.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 46, wherein the agent is a first agent and the method comprises pre-coating at least a portion of the masking system with a second agent prior to the shielding step.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the pre-coating step comprises:  
contacting the first surface of the masking system with a substrate; and  
coating the second agent onto the second surface and the plurality of channels of the masking system, wherein the first surface of the masking system is free of the second agent.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the shielding step comprises:  
removing the masking system from the substrate; and  
bringing the first surface of the masking system into conformal contact with the first portion of the surface of the article.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the first agent is a cell-adhesion promoter.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the second agent is a cell-adhesion inhibitor.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~18~~ 16, further comprising adding a third agent to the first portion of the surface of the article.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising allowing the cells applied to the first agent to spread onto the third agent.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the first agent is a first cell-adhesion promoter and the third agent is a second cell-adhesion promoter.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising adding cells of a second type to the third agent.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the channel has a dimension for controlling the growth of a single cell.

45. (Currently Amended) A method for patterning cells, comprising:  
shielding a first portion of a surface of an article with a polymeric masking system;  
applying ~~an agent~~ cells through a channel within the masking system to a second portion of the surface of the article while preventing application of the ~~agent~~ cells to the first portion of the surface of the article; and  
~~applying cells onto the agent~~ removing the masking system from the first portion of the surface of the article.

46. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising before the step of applying cells:  
applying an agent through the channel within the masking system to the second portion of the surface of the article while preventing application of the agent to the first portion of the surface of the article.

47. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising before the step of applying cells:

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applying an agent through the channel within the masking system to the second portion of the surface of the article while preventing application of the agent to the first portion of the surface of the article.

